

MINUTES
WEST HARTFORD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, November 13, 2017
WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL, ROOM 400

Board Members in attendance: Daniel Firestone, Ken Livingston, MaryEllen Thibodeau, Daniel Johnson, Scott Franklin, Jill Morawski, Laurie Silverman

Town Staff in Attendance: Town Engineer - Duane Martin

There were approximately 15 people in attendance. A quorum of the West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission was present.

Next Meeting is December 11th, 2017

- 1) New attendees, (residents) came to meeting because of recent family friend hit on Mountain Road.
- 2) MaryEllen reported on new Pedestrian Initiatives
 - a. The Principal of Conard High School reached out to parents and kids regarding safety when biking to school.
 - i. In addition, concerns about policing of drivers using cell phones
 - b. Duane Martin commented on new bike lanes on King Philip Drive near the middle school. The Commission asked Duane to monitor parent drop-off activity
 - c. MaryEllen discussed introducing bike safety into the 4th grade school curriculum
 - i. A comment was made that Suffield Gym Teachers are LCI certified to instruct 4th graders on safe riding practices.
 - ii. The commission will look into getting West Hartford schools recognized safety designations
 - iii. Attendees recommended inviting principals to town meetings
 - d. MaryEllen raised concern regarding cars turning right on red and not paying attention to pedestrians
 - e. An informal request was made for more sidewalks on Asylum North Side on St. Mary's and Saint Joseph College
An informal requested was made for more sidewalks on Holbrook
 - f. Duane Martin reported no update on the Trout Brook Bridge reconstruction, construction has not begun due to unforeseen circumstances.
 - g. Duane Martin reported on crosswalks on Farmington Avenue West of the Center, the issue is where to put the crosswalk. A location cannot be determined at this time.
 - h. MaryEllen requested at least one Town Police Officer attend WHPABC monthly meetings
- 3) Scott reported on BiciCo bikeshare program with businesses and apartment program
 - a. Virginia mentioned that Leadership Greater Hartford picked the bike share program as an initiative to address
 - b. Jack Doherty recommended that we check out the BiciCo Hartford Website and Hartford CT initiatives to use LimeBike
 - c. Discussion regarding reaching out to LimeBike program
 - d. Discussion regarding partnering with Simsbury Free Bike program
 - e. Ethan Frankel will research repair bike stand stations
- 4) MaryEllen reported on the Town Council Meeting via incentives for new construction in special zoning districts
 - a. The Commission approved a response (response 2 from handouts) to the Town Special Ordinance incentives written by MaryEllen Thibodeau
- 5) Local Routes signage has approved design
 - a. Duane Martin needs internal approval
- 6) MaryEllen reported on N Main Road Calming Initiative
 - a. Update on walks down North Main Street

- b. Another December meeting is penciled with hopes for a walk before year-end.
 - c. Duane Martin has pre-bridge traffic counts
- 7) Scott Franklin will request more town staff in attendance to Commission Meetings.
 - a. Permanent police presence request
 - b. The question was asked is other towns have voting town staff as voting members on their bicycle advisory committees.
- 8) New Business
 - a. Thanksgiving morning ride will be held.
 - b. Community Connectivity Grant Status
 - i. Town put application to state to fund local recreational bike routes
 - 1. Held up due to state budget
 - c. Plan of conservation and development status
 - i. Duane Martin reported the process has not been started
 - d. League of American Cyclists National Bike Summit Washington DC 3/5 -3/7
 - e. Cranksgiving will be November 18th starting at Trinity College Chapel Hartford CT
 - f. 2018 Meetings announced
 - g. Going for Silver of Bicycle Friendly Community Status for the Town of West Hartford
 - i. Responses due before next meeting
 - h. Duane Martin noted obstacles with phase final 2 phases of Trout Brook Trail
 - i. Planning process for next year's road construction

BIKE WEST HARTFORD

- 1. Ethan Frankel and Tracy Frankel reported on a Center Streets meeting held in October.
 - a) A discussion was had to try to convince St. Joseph's University to become a bicycle friendly University.
 - b) Request Bike West Hartford reach out to other businesses to obtain bicycle friendly status
 - i. Bike West Hartford is considering teaming up with Figure 8 Realty to jointly put on the Center Streets event in 2018.
- 2. Dan Firestone reported on purchase of trailer

Respectfully submitted,
 Daniel Johnson, Board Member
 West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission